

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /072 W

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R 170731Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3436

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, KS, SA

SUBJ: ROK PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF : A. SEOUL 3384; B. JIDDA 3096

1. WE DISCUSSED ROK PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH ROK EMBASSY MINISTER KANG ON MAY 14. HIS COMMENTS WERE CONSISTENT WITH INFO REF A. HE SAID THAT FROM A POLITICAL AND A PROTOCOL POINT OF VIEW THE VISIT HAD GONE VERY WELL. THE ROK PM WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED AND THE VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY. THE ROK WAS ASSURED OF CONTINUING SAUDI DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, HOWEVER, ON SAUDI ARABIAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA IN SPITE OF EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

2. IT APPEARS THAT WHAT THE SAUDIS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE WAS NOT WHAT THE ROK FELT IT NEEDED AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE SAUDI SIDE EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO GRANT PROJECT LOANS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND. THOUGH THE ROK IS INTERESTED AND WILL BE FOLLOWING UP ON THIS, IT DOES NOT MEET THE ROK'S MORE URGENT NEEDS. THE SAUDIS ARE ONLY WILLING TO CONSIDER THOUGHT OUT AND WELL
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PREPARED PROJECTS AND THIS TAKES TIME.

3. THE SAG DID OFFER SHORTER TERM LOANS TO ASSIST THE ROK WITH ITS PRESENT FINANCIAL AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES, BUT THEY WERE TO BE ON ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL TERMS; AGAIN NOT WHAT THE ROK DELEGATION HAD IN MIND.

4. MINISTER KANG SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A VERY FRUITFUL MEETING DURING THE VISIT WITH MINISTER OF STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION HISHAM NAZER. (NAZER HAS HIMSELF VISITED SOUTH KOREA). NAZER SEEMED SINCERELY INTERESTED IN HELPING SOUTH KOREA IN ITS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. HE PROMISED TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS TO AID THE ROK IN HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD--THE PERSON WHO WILL HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT SAY IN THE FINAL DECISION.

5. KANG SAID THAT THE ROK IS NOT DISCOURAGED. THE NEXT STEP IS FOR SOUTH KOREAN FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO PUT TOGETHER A PROPOSAL BUILDING ON WHAT THE SAG SEEMS PREPARED TO GIVE. HE EXPECTS A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION OF EXPERTS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA SHORTLY.

6. A SUBJECT NOT RAISED DURING KIM CHONG-PIL'S VISIT--MUCH TO THE RELIEF TO THE ROK SIDE--WAS THE SUBJECT OF ISRAELI REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH KOREA. ROK AMBASSADOR YOON INFORMS US THAT DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA OF THE SAG MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MOHAMMUD TAWFIQ, HE HAD SAID THAT AUDI SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA COULD BE BEST ASSURED IF SOUTH KOREA WERE TO END ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN SEOUL. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR YOON, THE ROK IS INCLINED TO IGNORE THE SUBJECT AND HOPE IT DOESN'T COME UP AGAIN. WE AGREE THAT THE ROK WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOT TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT.

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